In the claims:

- 1. (currently amended) A liquid composition comprising
 - a) from 0.1 to 20% by weight of a dye having a solid state absorption band maximum in the spectral region from 300 to 800 nm,
 - b) from 0.5 to 79.9% by weight of a compound of formula R_4 R_3 R_2 R_1 R_8 (I), wherein R_1

to R_8 are H, CH_3 or C_2H_5 , with the proviso that the total number of carbon atoms in R_1 to R_8 is 1 or 2,

- c) from 20% to 99.4% by weight of a linear, branched and/or cyclic non-aromatic hydrocarbon wherein the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is from 4:1 to 99:1 17:1 to 76:1, and
- d) optionally from 0 to 99.4% by weight of one or more further components, all based on the weight of the solution.

2-3. (cancelled)

- **4.** (currently amended) A composition of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of o-cymene, m-cymene, p-cymene, sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene, 2-pentylbenzene, isopent-2-ylbenzene and tert-amylbenzene.
- **5.** (previously presented) A composition of claim 1, wherein the dye is a phthalocyanine.
- **6.** (currently amended) A composition of claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon is alicyclic, and the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is from 17:1 to 76:1.
- 7. (previously presented) A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from cycloalkanes substituted by one or more C_1 - C_4 alkyl groups and/or having a boiling point of ≤ 170 °C.

8. (amended and withdrawn) A process for manufacturing an optical recording medium comprising a substrate with a grooved side, wherein the substrate is a polycarbonate or poly-methyl methacrylate substrate, a recording layer overlying the substrate on the grooved side, a reflective layer overlying the recording layer, and a protective layer overlying the reflective layer, which process comprises coating the grooved side of the substrate with the liquid composition of claim 5 [[1]] to produce the recording layer.

9-11. (cancelled)

- **12.** (previously presented) A composition of claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (I) is sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene or a mixture thereof.
- **13.** (previously presented) A composition of claim 1, wherein the dye is a copper or palladium phthalocyanine.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is methylcyclohexane, 1,2-dimethyl cyclohexane, ethyl cyclohexane or a mixture thereof.

16-20. (cancelled)